



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

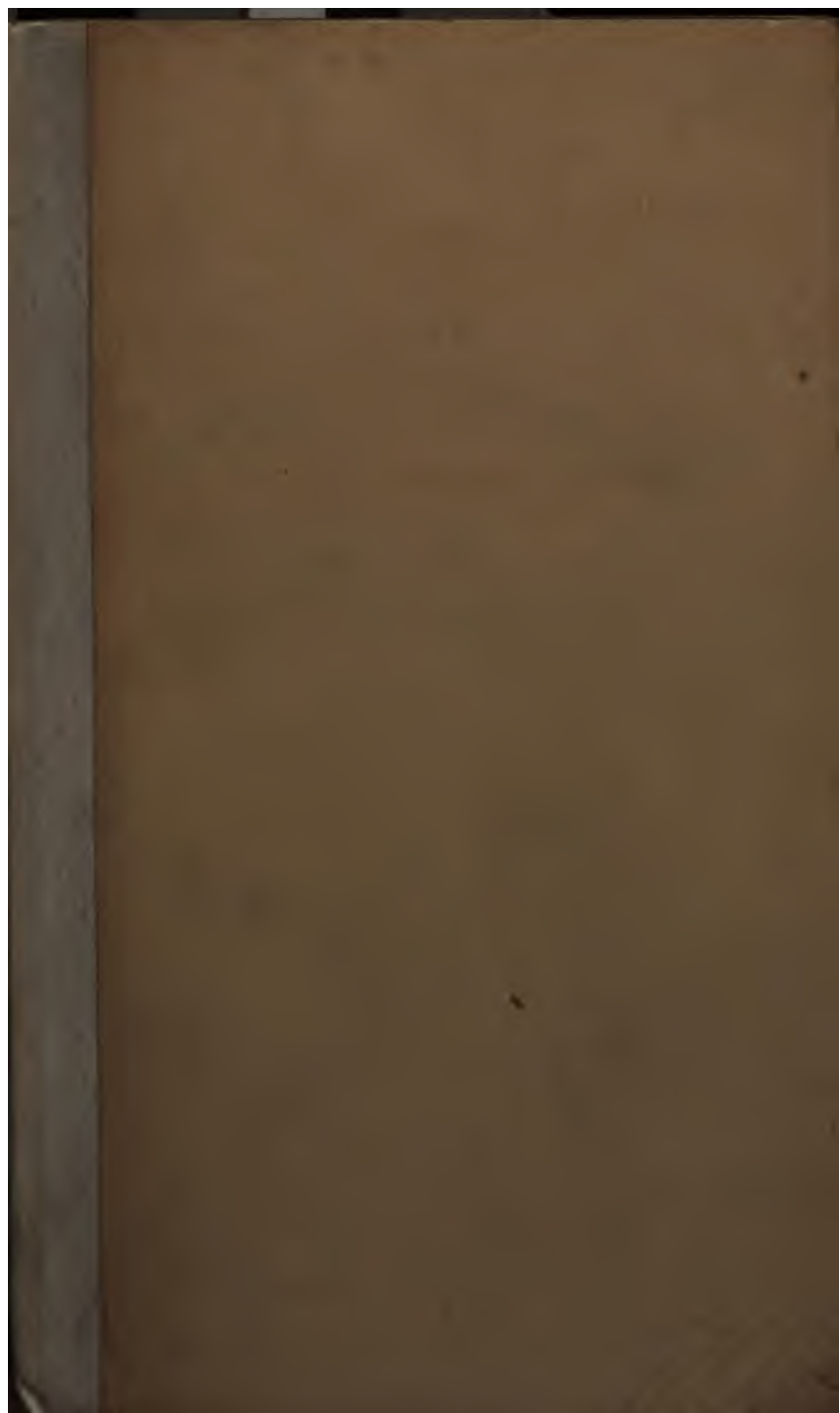
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

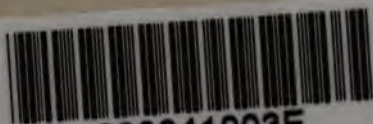
We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>





600041003E

18972 c. 159



2
HINTS

ON THE

Dec-20-183

BREEDING AND REARING OF
HORSES, PONIES, &c.,

ADDRESSED TO

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS;

WITH REMARKS ON TRAINING THE TROTTER; STABLE
ECONOMY; PURCHASING OF HORSES,
&c., &c.

BY

ANDREW J. BONAR.

TRALEE:

PRINTED BY F. C. PANORMO, STATIONER.

1852.

18949 159



CONTENTS.

	Page
CHAP. I.	
Breeding of Horses classified—the Chance Breeder— the Systematic Breeder	1
CHAP. II.	
Brood Mare in general	4
CHAP. III.	
Brood Mare for Heavy Draft Purposes—Lincolnshire —Cleveland—Clydesdale	6
CHAP. IV.	
Brood Mare for Carriage Purposes	8
CHAP. V.	
Brood Mare for Hunting Purposes—Size of a Tho- rough-bred Hunter's Leg	9
CHAP. VI.	
Brood Mare for Saddle Purposes—Colts for the Army —Sales of her Majesty's Troop Horses—Aid of the Veterinary Surgeon required	11

	Page
CHAP. VII.	
Brood Mare—the Pony—Connemara—Welsh—Shetland—Old Merlin—Lord Londonderry	13
CHAP. VIII.	
The Sire—which to be avoided—Coupling of Sire and Dam—Draft Mare—Carriage do.—Saddle do.—Pony do.—Size of Sire and Dam—Indiscriminate Crossing—Impregnation—its Importance considered—especially the first—Anecdote of—Lord Morton Breeding from the Quagga—Hereditary Diseases .	15
CHAP. IX.	
Breeding Establishment—Grazing Ground—Brood Mares—Treatment of—Abortion—Need not be kept idle—Neurotomy or Nerve Operation—Bad Nurse—Colts for the Army—Docking the Same .	22
CHAP. X.	
Weaning the Foal—Winter Keeping—Persons in Charge of Young Stock—Head Collars—Grazing in Company—Handling—Castration—Breaking and Training—Destruction of Colts by early Working .	29
CHAP. XI.	
The Trotter—Training of—Greatest Performers—Proper Age of Training Draft Stock—Carriage do.—Hunting do.—Saddle do.—Ponies	34
TO THE LANDLORDS.	
Observations to—Sires as they are in the County—Superior Sires recommended—Profit and Expense of keeping a Sire detailed—Premiums to the Tenantry—Ponies exhibited at Killorglin Fair—Select Brood Ponies—Rearing of Ponies—When and how to be Sold—Arabian and Barb Sire—Spanish and Maltese Ass—Mules	41

CONTENTS.

V.

Page

CONCLUSION.

Horses bred in England remunerative—Why should they not be so in Ireland—Kerry particularly adapted for this purpose—Destructive Practice of too early Working Colts—Expenses for Twelve Months for keeping Two Carriage Horses in England—Expenses for keeping Two Carriage Horses for Twelve Months in Kerry—Expenses of keeping a Horse Fifteen and a-half Hands—Do. keeping a Palfrey—Purchasing of Hay and Oats—Remarks to the Groom—Kiln dried Oats prejudicial—Stable Management—Stoppings for the Feet—Boiled Barley	49
--	----

APPENDIX.

Purchasing of Horses—Tricks in the Trade—Persons in want of a Horse—Selecting a Horse—Warrantcy of Soundness—Leading Points in Selecting a Horse—Unsoundness—The aid of the Veterinary Surgeon required—Stringhalt—Term Soundness . . .	57
---	----



TO
HENRY ARTHUR HERBERT, ESQ., M.P.

THE FOLLOWING HINTS ON
BREEDING AND REARING OF HORSES, PONIES, &c.

ARE, WITH KIND PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY
THE AUTHOR.

MILLTOWN, COUNTY KERRY,
Sept. 20th, 1852.



INTRODUCTION.

THE present period being one of deep anxiety among all parties connected with agricultural pursuits, or who have the good of their country at heart—and it being admitted on all hands, that the rearing of stock of a superior class is the best way to enable farmers to pay rent, and live in comfort on the lands of their forefathers—I feel inclined to offer to the farmers in this county a few remarks on the BREEDING AND REARING OF HORSES.

The necessity and advantage of breeding superior horned cattle, and sheep, has—I am happy to say—engaged the attention (in a limited way at least,) of many of the landed proprietors and farmers; but the breeding of the noble horse has been painfully neglected.

Many horses are bred, it is true, yet there is no regard paid to the qualifications requisite. The parents may be old or young, sound or unsound, blind, or otherwise defective; the owner only thinks of having a foal, without ever considering that like produces like, and that whatever the sire and dam are, such, in all probability, will the progeny be.

In *Bell's Life*, of the 29th February, 1852, the question is asked: "How it happens that blind horses reverse the order of nature, by sporting fine coats in winter, and rough ones in summer?" This is a question I cannot answer; but as it is the case with nearly all blind horses, I for one, would expect to see in a few years—should the present indiscriminate system of breeding from blind sires and dams be persisted in—the horses in this county sporting as shaggy coats in the summer months, as any puck-goat that ever graced the August fair of Killorglin.

It is the object of the following remarks, to endeavour to pourtray the most beautiful of all animals in his improved form, and to assist the

breeder in selecting sire and dam, free from constitutional or other defects—so that a class of young stock may be produced of superior stamp—and to direct how young stock ought to be reared, so that the breeder may not only be a gainer in a pecuniary point of view himself, but may also confer a lasting benefit on the country at large.

It may be safely asked: “Who would not feel proud of having been a decided improver of the breed of horses in any country?” The horse is the most useful of all our domestic animals; the acme of beauty, proportion, grandeur, strength, courage, and swiftness; gifted by nature with lofty instinct, generous disposition, and determined purpose, suited to partake in many of the pleasures of man, and powerfully gifted to assist him in the multitudinous operations of labour. He partakes with his rider in the stimulus of the course, and in the hunting field. Boldly and fearlessly does he rush into the battle field, and remains undisturbed amid the thundering of artillery; and how calmly and perseveringly

does he labour in the cultivation of the soil. In every civilised nation, he is regarded and esteemed of consequence, and only cruelly used, or neglected, by savages, or by men of minds or tempers worse than brutes.

The county of Kerry is by nature peculiarly suited for the rearing of horses, from the tiny pony of the hills to the largest breed for draft purposes ; fine climate, good herbage, hill and dale, with abundance of excellent water. Some parts may, indeed, want shelter, but on the whole it is admirably suited for the purpose ; yet, strange to say, it generally produces the worst breed of horses in Ireland, and has not one worthy of inducing respectable dealers to attend the markets.

Without any other prefatory remarks, I shall at once enter upon the subject proposed for consideration, namely, **THE BREEDING OF HORSES.**

BREEDING

AND

REARING OF HORSES.

CHAP. I.

BREEDING of horses may be thus classified, breeding by chance, and breeding by system.

The breeding by chance is by far the most common all over the South of Ireland. A gentleman, or farmer, happens to have a mare which has carried him safely and comfortably for years, on the road, or in the hunting field, or has been his trusty slave in harness; and either from kindness for past services, or some other cause, he wishes to have a foal from this favourite mare, feeling quite happy in having so good an animal to breed from. No farther consideration is bestowed; her shapes, temper, constitution, and action, may all be good for a huntress or a roadster, still she may not be suited at all for a brood mare.

Again, a person may have a mare which he intends to use as a brood mare, which has not any of the

qualities possessed by the other. She may be old, badly shaped, bad tempered, broken down in, or of a washy constitution, blind, spavined, curby hocked, still she is used as a breeding mare. Now can anything be so foolish as to expect success in breeding in this way? And, as it is by far the most common practice, can it at all be wondered at, that so many farmers complain that breeding horses will not pay? Disappointment and pecuniary loss must, in such circumstances accrue to the breeder, and a great injury is done to the country at large.

I am willing to allow that a good foal may be produced from such a mare as last described, but it is ninety-nine chances in a hundred that a worthless brute is not the result.

Again, how does the chance breeder proceed in the choice of a sire? Does he look for one that has all the parts and points in perfection in which his mare is deficient? One which resembles her in size and form, but superior in his breeding? If he did, half of the evil might in some cases be avoided; but chance is again trusted to, and all the anxiety he evinces in the matter is the cost of the service. In short, he cares not what sort of a brute the sire is, provided he can be procured at a cheap rate. He may have every defect to which horse flesh is liable; but this is no matter to the chance breeder, *a foal* is all he seems to desire.

The systematic breeder proceeds in a very different manner from the chance or hap-hazard breeder; but as these remarks are intended for the instruction of

the farming class, it will not be necessary to enter at any length on the systematic breeding of the race horse, which has been brought to the highest state of perfection ; and to which the greatest attention is paid, to a nicety indeed of which few persons not conversant with the turf can have any idea. For this class of horses, sire and dam must not only have their pedigrees without stain down to southern blood, and, however perfect in every way in shape and form they themselves may be, yet they must belong to really running family blood, or they will never rank high in the estimation of the gentlemen of the turf.

The systematic breeder never allows any chance work to creep into his concern, whether he breeds racers, hunters, carriage, saddle, or cart horses ; he selects with deep anxiety his breeding mares, and spares no expense in procuring the best sires. Any defects in his mares he endeavours to correct in his foals, by having the sire super-excellent in these points, so that by close attention to these matters, he can almost calculate to a certainty what sort of animal he will have to dispose of at a certain age, and what he will be worth.

Breeders of this description are not as yet numerous in the South of Ireland ; there is, however, nothing to prevent them becoming so, and they will generally succeed best by confining themselves to the breeding of one class of horses.

Respectable dealers are always more ready to purchase from a breeder whose sole attention is

directed to one particular class, than from one who breeds various kinds, because he knows where to apply another year should he require any to match, which is often the case.

The breeder will also find it to be for his own advantage to proceed in this way, as he will sooner discover any improvement of which his stud is capable, and he will be better able to rectify any defects it may inherit.

CHAP. II.

The Brood Mare.

I SHALL now proceed to point out in a general way what a brood mare ought to be, and under the different breeds, will notice the particular form and size of each, and the action she should excel in.

The mare should be at least five years of age before being used as a breeder, nature requiring this length of time to mature her frame in all its proportions ; this being the case, she cannot be used sooner without detriment to her own form and constitution. Nor can she supply her foal from its embryo state until its birth with the full nutritious substance that it requires. Nor after birth can she supply the quantity of nourishing milk which she would be able to do, were she herself fully matured.

The mare ought to be of a robust constitution, free from every natural defect. She ought to have

superior action for her class, and be of a mild, placid temper; in height she may range from fourteen to sixteen hands. In form she should be what is termed lengthy, more than compact—carcase large and roomy, but rounded so as to approach the line of beauty all over—head fine—ears erect—eye full and mild, well placed towards the front of the head—open, wide nostrils—head joined clean on to the neck—the under jaw wide at the junction of the neck, to allow ample room for the gullet, which should be loose and largely developed—neck not over long, light, well formed and arched—shoulders should rise and run well into the back—the withers should be strong, but fine—the points of the shoulders sweetly rounded—breast full, but not over wide—back nearly straight, in a line with the tail, which should correspond in height with the back—deep in girth, or what is called thick round the heart—well let down in the ribs—powerful over the loins—haunches wide, full and muscular—large, clean hock joints.

Thighs and forearms should be long, full, and muscular—legs rather short and full below the knee, clean and flat—the knee joints large and flat—pasterns evenly united to the feet—toe turning neither out nor in—feet round and wide at the heels—substance of hoof tough and dark in colour.

As horses vary in some material points, it is impossible to delineate a brood mare perfect in every particular, so as to suit every shade of the variety of horses. It may be as well to describe the most

useful mares for profitable breeding, and as every brood mare should possess in full, all the qualifications already detailed, it will now only be necessary to particularize any difference of form which the respective breed should exhibit.

CHAP. III.

Mare for Heavy Draft Purposes.

I SHALL commence with the mare for heavy draft purposes, as the size of her head, and the formation of her shoulders are different from any of the breeds of which I intend to treat.

This mare should stand from fifteen to sixteen hands high, and need only excel in walking action. Head should be large, but still well shaped—breast round, plump and full—shoulders strong, and muscles fully developed, and standing upright rather than oblique—neck strong and thick. From this formation a greater weight is thrown into the collar, than if the head was small, neck light, and shoulders oblique. Leg rather lengthy in proportion to the body, which should also be lengthy—pasterns short and strong—firm, round, well formed feet—loins and haunches powerful—hams round and raised at the summits. This formation of haunches assists in throwing weight into the collar. Any one who has watched a steady puller under a heavy load, must have observed how the animal lowers the head,

bends the knee, and digs the hind toe into the ground. In temper she should be sedate without dulness, persevering, tractable, and docile in harness, and free from every description of vice. By attention to these qualities a breed of powerful determined pullers might be established, which would do any breeder credit, and the large prices he would obtain for his stock would soon put him beyond the need of pecuniary credit.

The largest breed of horses for draft are chiefly bred in the fens of Lincolnshire, splendid specimens of which are to be seen in the drays of London, and which often cost at five years of age the sum of eighty or one hundred pounds each. They are, however, too heavy for general purposes, and seem to be kept as much for show as usefulness.

The Cleveland bay, bred in Durham, is a light, superior draft horse, and much more active and useful than the Lincolnshire black; but for the heaviest work of the farm or road, there is no horse superior to the improved Clydesdale. These are now attracting the attention of persons requiring strong active horses, both in England and some parts of this country, and always command remunerative prices.

I would strongly recommend this horse to the attention of the breeder, being long established as a superior class, always in demand, and easily procured. A good colt at four years of age should be well worth thirty pounds in any country. They are generally excellent walkers, steady pullers, and can take a heavier load a distance in less time than any breed known.

CHAP. IV.

Brood Mare for Carriage Purposes.

IN breeding first rate carriage horses, particular attention should be paid to the colour of sire and dam, (which is not so very material in other stock,) as there are only three colours which are much in demand, viz. :—rich bay with black points, brown, and grey. The mare may be from fifteen and a-half to sixteen and a-half hands high, fully half or three parts bred, and should in appearance represent a lengthy over sized huntress—head small, clean, fine, and tapering towards the muzzle—full, large eye—neck rather long and arched—shoulders full, and lying rather oblique into the back—forehand high and tapering, leg rather lengthy—she should be a grand fast goer, with brilliant knee action, pasterns rather long than short (to prevent concussion.)

It is often remarked by dealers, that, should the head and tail of a well bred carriage colt be nicely put on, all the other points will generally be correct. Nothing catches the eye sooner, so particular attention should be paid by the breeder to these points. A first rate carriage colt, at four years old, may be expected to rate in value from forty to sixty pounds; this should satisfy any breeder for the extra trouble and expense he may be put to in getting into this stock. The colt may with advantage to himself be wrought at gentle farm work from the age of three years and six months.

CHAP. V.

Brood Mare—Hunting.

THE mare for this purpose must still be higher bred than the carriage mare ; it is the fashion to have fast hounds now a days, so unless the hunter is well bred he cannot keep a good place in the hunting field in any open country.

Although hunters must be nearly thorough bred, yet great strength is required, and no breed commands higher prices than first class weight carrying hunters.

The mare should be at least three parts bred—in height from fifteen to sixteen hands high—in form more compact than either the carriage or race mare—head particularly fine, and nicely joined to the neck—wide under jaw—loose throat—neck rather short and light, than long and heavy—shoulders full, but sweetly blended into the back, with a fine rising forehead. She need not possess the grand knee action so much admired in the harness horse, but she ought to bend the knee so as to be safe and pleasant on the road. She should walk and trot gaily and lightly, and gallop smoothly ; a high galloper is never so sure, and will sooner tire.

Many persons imagine that the hunter can go with any sort of forelegs, as it is the hind ones which propel him along. This is a great mistake, it is true that he may get over a country, with forelegs and feet which would fail him on the road, but still the

hunter as well as the racer, goes from his shoulders, so most particular attention should be paid that they are well placed, the forearms full, and the leg broad and short below the knee.

The handsomest huntress I ever saw belonged to a friend of mine, who rode fifteen stone, she was fast and lasting. I regret her likeness was never taken, however, I often measured her leg, and for the benefit of any one curious about the size of a thorough bred hunters leg, I here subjoin particulars :

Foreleg from the top of the hoof to	
the middle of the pastern joint,	$3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
From the head of pastern joint to	
the bend of the knee,	$10\frac{1}{4}$ do.
From the bend of the knee to the	
elbow joint,	$18\frac{1}{2}$ do.
Round the leg below the knee,	
smallest part,	$8\frac{1}{4}$ do.

This mare stood only fifteen and a-half hands, was thorough bred, and carried her owner for many years in some of the crack hunts in England. I instance this mare to prove that bone and blood are to be obtained combined, with proper selection of sire and dam, and that the hunter need not be the small legged weedy animal so often represented. No horses will pay the breeder better, provided he can afford to keep them well, until at least five years of age. This is the greatest draw back on this class, as they ought never to do any work so as to pay for

their keep. They may be used gently as roadsters from the age of four, but never put into harness, unless at light ploughing, or harrowing work, and even this only occasionally.

CHAP. VI.

Brood Mare for Saddle Purposes.

THIS is a class of horses in every day demand, but how exceedingly difficult it is to find a really well shaped one for either the saddle or the gig. Were any good judge to attend the fairs in this county, he would not be able to select many with any extra merit. It is almost in vain to find a gentlemanly looking horse, able to carry with pleasure, speed, and safety, any reasonable weight, or the handsome compact cob which used to be found capable of walking with sixteen or eighteen stone on his back, four or five miles, or gaily trotting twelve or fourteen within the hour. Yet, with attention, the smallest farmers could with ease, breed, rear, and sell horses of this description.

The mare may be of any colour, but the following are much preferred, bay, brown, grey, and dark chesnut, free from white. In height she may be from fourteen to sixteen hands, and should be at least half bred—she ought to bend the knee well, and have speedy, light action—shoulders extensive, and declining considerably into the back, (a horse

with very high shoulders can never be a very fast trotter)—waist lengthy—loins broad—quarters well spread, and should throw the hind legs wide apart—breast narrow rather than broad—when going the forefeet should approach near but not touch the legs—good bone below the knee, firm, straight joints, and strong sound feet.

As there is always a good demand for colts for the army, breeding for this purpose is strongly recommended; they are bought at the early age of three years, and the price will generally amply repay the breeder. However, great attention must be paid, in the selection of the brood mare, and keeping in memory that like produces like, the best way to procure mares for this purpose would be to attend the sales which often take place in Limerick, Cork, or Dublin, of her Majesty's troop horses. These have all originally been selected by officers of taste and judgment, and are often sold for no reason or cause that would militate against the animal as a brood mare.

The advice of a veterinary surgeon should be secured at these sales, as he would be able to detect any defects which may be considered as hereditary, and which might render the animal (otherwise correct,) dear at any price as a brood mare.

CHAP. VII.

Brood Mare—the Pony.

As there are many situations in this county admirably calculated for breeding ponies, a few remarks on the same will bring my list of brood mares to a conclusion.

The pony does not exceed thirteen hands, above this height it is called a cob or a galloway. Among the many breeds to be found in this country, in England and Scotland, I consider by far the best to be the Connemara, the Welsh, and the Shetland.

The Connemara, is by tradition, traced down to the escape of some horses from the Spanish Armada, it stands from eleven to thirteen hands, it is active, sure footed and enduring; but its pace generally approaches too much to the amble of the mule, however it is much valued for young ladies, and often brings a high price.

The Welsh pony is a very beautiful animal, and remarkably easily reared, subsisting on the barest hilly pasture. It is in general an excellent trotter, well suited for boys on the road or field, if it cannot clear a fence it will get over it in some way. The head is small, neck finely arched, body full and round, shoulders high but sloping well into the back, legs clean and flat, with excellent feet. As a pony it has no superior, and would well repay its importation to the hills of Kerry. With what truth I cannot say, but it is thought by many persons that

this breed of ponies owes its present beauty and goodness to the blood of Old Merlin, about the year 1714. Merlin was the best horse of his day, and was a grandson of the Helmsley Turk, the property of the first Duke of Buckingham. About this period the first great improvement of the English race horse commenced, by the importation of pure eastern blood.

The Shetland pony is reared on the islands bearing its name. It is small, but very pretty, of a quiet, sweet disposition, strong and lasting—in height it averages from seven to ten hands—head small—neck rather short—shoulders low but slanting—back very short—quarters full and muscular—flat good legs, and prettily formed feet. It is a great pet with children, and is generally a fair regular trotter, faster and more enduring than could be expected from its size.

I may here remark that there is every probability of a greater demand for ponies arising than has hitherto existed. The mind revolts at the inhuman custom of compelling children to work so much in mines, and Lord Londonderry, to his immortal honour, has lately given orders to substitute ponies as much as possible in his mines to perform the under ground work, hitherto done by women and children.

I have perhaps, at too great length, discussed the different formations of the brood mare, but anxiety to remove the too common idea amongst inexperienced breeders, that the progeny always bears the greater

resemblance to the male (which is apt to make them careless about the female,) must plead my excuse.

To constitute any thorough bred variety, the female must be equally well bred with the male, and to secure superiority in the progeny, both parents must possess it.

In considering what sort of animal the sire should be, it must be repeated what was said about the brood mare, that no one animal can be described suitable for every purpose ; much must be left to the taste and judgment of the breeder, in selecting proper sires for the mares he may possess.

CHAP. VIII.

The Sire.

It being generally believed that the male in most species is longer in arriving at full maturity than the female, the horse should be at least six years' of age before being used as a sire. He ought to be in excellent health, of a strong robust constitution, and of a lively but not hasty temper. In form compact—carcass round and beautifully moulded—head fine, wide across the forehead—ears long (although appearing small,) thin and erect—eye well placed in front of the head, large and full, *not showing much white*—jaws wide apart, but tapering towards the muzzle, which should be small—free, open nostrils—large, loose gullet—neck lengthy, not too heavy,

and finely arched—extensive muscular shoulders inclining into back—(except for heavy draft,) back straight and short—deep in girth—finely curved ribs, closely coupled—strong over the loins—haunches wide, full, and muscular—the hams of the saddle sire should be deep and oval, those of the draft, full, round, and raised at the summits—legs rather short, and particularly so below the knee—(the eye comprehending the whole body must judge of the proper length of the leg)—the tail set on corresponding with the back (on no account to droop,) thighs and forearms lengthy, full, and very muscular—knee joints and hocks large and flat—feet and pastern joints equal in size, should be even before and behind, and the toe neither turning out nor in—substance of the hoof dark and clear in colour.

As strength ought to predominate in the sire, particular attention should be paid to the fullness of the sinews leading to and from the hock, and to the angle of the hock, so that the hind feet should be well under the loins; it is an evident sign of weakness when the legs are left as it were behind the body.

Before quitting the subject of the sire, I would caution intending breeders to examine the same very carefully, whether he possess the requisite points and form as fully as could be desired, without the *covering of extra flesh*. Nothing is more often fancied by inexperienced judges than a large, bulky, fat horse. The owners of sires are aware of this taste, and they often force, by artificial feeding, the

animal into a state of fullness, by which the constitution is decidedly impaired; thus he cannot be expected to get as lively, sound, enduring stock, as if he were in the full enjoyment of health and spirits. Again, no one can so correctly judge of the shapes of any animal when over loaded with fat to the hiding of the very muscles. Both sire and dam should be in full healthy habit of flesh, but no more.

Having now attempted to give some particulars of the brood mare and sire, it may assist the breeder to mention how they may be profitably coupled.

Draft mare with sire of same breed.

Carriage mare with sire of same breed, or with more breeding.

Saddle mare with sire of same breed, or thorough bred.

Pony mare with sire of same breed, or small Arab or Barb.

The nearer sire and dam approach each other in size so much the better; nothing is more likely to produce twins than coupling a small mare with a large horse, and it would be prudent where practicable not to allow the male ever to exceed one hand in height over the size of the female.

The practice of indiscriminate crossing, is by far too common in this county; the necessity of doing so at any time is questionable. It may have its advantages in some cases, but it is an exceedingly precarious system, and only to be successfully practised by persons thoroughly conversant with all the ramifications in the most minute details of breeding.

Where first rate stock of any variety is to be had, it will always be better to keep to the same character, even although the individuals should in some cases be closely connected by relationship. The greatest advantages have resulted in breeding horned cattle from close affinity, and there can be no doubt that breeding horses in the same manner would succeed, if properly conducted within certain limits.

A breeder having a really valuable breed, should adhere to it as nearly as possible, and allow others to amuse themselves by crossing as they may think best ; when he has to use any male not of the same character as the female, let him always *ascend* in blood, and never *descend*, he may depend upon it, that the thorough bred racer, has ever been the grand improver of all our saddle and carriage stock, and will continue to be so.

There is one very important point on the subject of impregnation, which I think may be very properly noticed here, and that is, whether a mare of any distinct breed and blood can, or cannot, by possibility, be rendered less pure in her own blood by having a foal to an impure bred horse, so that she may in after breeding with a thorough bred horse impart any of the impure blood of her first impregnation to her progeny. There are many instances on record, which would almost prove that she may do so. The mare, the sheep, and the dog, have produced young so unlike the true male parent, that it seems quite possible, and for the information of those who may not have heard of these strange facts

in breeding, I shall here detail one remarkable instance, which¹ is fully authenticated.

A mare of pure Arab blood belonging to the late Earl of Morton, was covered by a Quagga (a species of the wild ass,) and produced a female of an intermediate character between the Quagga and the horse; this mare was afterwards covered by a pure Arabian horse, and produced a filly foal, having the peculiar stripes of the Quagga in the back and head, the mane was stiff, short, and upright like the Quagga. Next season the mare produced to the same Arabian horse a colt foal having similar stripes, and the mane was large and arched upwards so as to hang clear of the neck.

The mare was continued as a breeder with different horses for years, but every foal she produced bore some distinct marks of the Quagga, time did not remove the stain.* Many more instances of the same nature could be given as to the mare, as also the sheep and the dog, but the limits of these remarks do not admit of further details.

Many opinions are held on this important subject; some think that the singular effect produced on the progeny of the mare was caused by the strength of affection with which she had regarded her first lover the Quagga; that her imagination of him caused the effect. I cannot, however, give the mare credit for such a romantic disposition, and I think it goes far to prove that the mare may be radically changed in

* Rural Cyclopaedia.

her own blood by the impure secretions of the horse. When a mare is impregnated by a horse not of the same blood as herself, she instantly receives foreign blood into her system, however minute it may be, which increases in quantity as the foetus progresses, and which may pass into and amalgamate with her own blood and destroy its purity. It may be asked what has the practical breeder to do with this speculative matter. From it he may receive a very useful lesson as to how he ought to couple his mare, especially for the first time, and whether I am correct or not in my view of the matter, it surely is the more prudent system to introduce superior and never inferior blood at the first impregnation in every class of animals, whether they be horse, horned cattle, sheep, sow, or dog.

In the event of a mare producing a foal not answering to the description expected from the sire she had been served with, it would be more prudent to remove her as a breeder, or endeavour to select for her a sire bearing the character which her progeny more closely resembles, than to lose time and money by continuing to breed from her with a sire whose blood does not suit hers, or to use the language of the turf, does not nick.

Horses of every formation are liable to many imperfections, and as some of these are clearly hereditary, it becomes the breeder to give his watchful attention to any diseases, imperfections, or defects, in either sire or dam, and to reject as breeders any individuals thus affected, unless he can prove beyond

all doubt, that accident, and not natural causes, has produced the defect. The following may be considered hereditary and dangerous: bad temper, sulkiness, rearing and kicking, blindness, and every affection of the eye, but most particularly periodical ophthalmia, usually called moon blindness, (the great bane of horse flesh in Ireland, but the least regarded or guarded against), any affection of breathing. A mare with bad lungs can never impart to her foetus the full vigour which it should receive, as her own blood cannot be properly purified.

Curbs; the writer once possessed a very fine race mare, a winner of many races in England. She was from her shape, size, pedigree, and performances, of great value as a brood mare. She had shown symptoms of curbs at three years old, for which she had been fired, and which was the only evidence that she had ever been so affected, all appearance of the curbs being dissipated. She produced three foals when in writer's possession, to different horses, all of which at their birth had decidedly curby hocks. Many years after he had parted with the mare, he learned, that she had been sold for this very cause, having produced foals both to Emilius, and Sultan, (the most celebrated sires in England a few years ago.) Spavins, ring bones, contracted, brittle, and flat feet, are all to be avoided; these, and many others, may be imparted to the foal, but none of them would I fear so much as defects of the eye, and a mare of a washy constitution is never a good feeder, and does not digest her food so as

sufficiently to supply her own wants and those of the embryo foal. When a mare is really broken winded, it is folly to attempt to breed from her, as not one in fifty will produce a foal.

CHAP. IX.

Breeding Establishment.

THE first thing required where breeding to any extent is to be conducted, is to provide good stabling (much required in Kerry,) yards, and fenced enclosures for each species which requires to be kept separate, or to prevent them from crowding too much together.

The land about the stables should be dry, grazing ground undulating, having good streams of water, shelter, and extensive range of pasturage. Horses bred in low flat land will almost invariably be found rather large, with heavy heads, soft flat feet, round, fleshy legs, and with little of the elasticity of spirits and limbs of those bred and reared in a dry hilly soil.

A proper establishment would *certainly* incur some outlay of money, but if properly conducted, would amply repay for the same.

I shall not enter into any details regarding the coupling of the horse and mare, as this is fully understood by every one who has any knowledge of horses, and only need remark that the proper months

for putting them together are April, May, and June, for racers it may be necessary to be so early as February.

Assuming that the mare is in foal, and as she carries her foal over eleven months, her treatment during these months comes now under consideration.

When the brood mares are allowed to go at large all the year, they ought to graze by themselves, and nothing should be allowed to disturb them; sheds where they can retire from the summer heat should be erected in convenient places, these will also serve for shelter, and feeding them in during the winter.

Between the fifth and sixth months after conception is the most critical period for abortion, so any mare not proving in foal, or which may have cast the same, should be instantly removed and kept apart from the others. No strange animal should be allowed to get near the mares, a male ass may cause many mares to cast foal and the weather or water gets the blame.

In winter, say from the first of November, good, sound, well saved hay should be placed in the sheds for the mares, with plenty of dry litter, and oats and roots should be daily supplied. When roots are not given, each mare should receive at least seven pounds of oats daily, morning and evening; with carrots or turnips four pounds of oats will be sufficient, which may be given thus: a stable bucket of clean washed carrots sliced, or boiled turnips, in the morning, the oats in the middle of the day, and the

same quantity of roots in the evening ; any mare appearing to lose condition must be more liberally supplied with oats. Old mares are often unable properly to masticate their oats, and some are apt to bolt them whole ; crushing the oats is an excellent plan in these cases, or bran may be substituted.

It is not at all necessary that the brood mare need spend a life of idleness, The farmer's mare may be regularly wrought at any work, which does not distress her in body or spirits, until nearly the end of her eleven months, without detriment to herself or foal ; but she must be liberally fed with good hay and oats. No food of a griping tendency, such as wet clover or vetches should be given, except in very small quantities at a time. She ought to be better fed after the fifth month than the other working horses, and may with much advantage receive a good feed of boiled barley or turnips every night. She ought to be provided with a roomy stall, and be attended by a steady, good tempered guide at work.

There is no regular work on the farm that can hurt a breeding mare ; but many persons (and perhaps correctly,) object to them being used in the threshing mill.

It may be observed that breeding a foal or two from a mare, does not in the least interfere with her usefulness afterwards. Many mares have raced with success after having reared foals, and in the event of a mare having received an injury, where time is required to perfect a cure, she may be profitably bred from. Brood mares at grass very often suffer

much pain from neglect of their feet, these should be regularly examined every two months, and pared when necessary, and slippers put on those whose feet will not stand the wear and tear of hard grazing ground.

The operation of neurotomy or nerve operation may be objected to by some persons, but on the score of humanity I would strongly recommend it in the case of a brood mare suffering from any incurable lameness in the feet. Contraction often takes place in the feet of old brood mares; and, surely, it is better by a momentary suffering to the animal to relieve them thus, than permit them to live in agony during the whole course of their lives. Further, the very lame mare is not able to do justice to her foal; she must always be in a feverish state of body, and consequently cannot supply the healthy, nourishing milk required for the full growth of the foal—nor can she search for abundance of food, or take the exercise that both she and foal require.

In this respect the operation of neurotomy must be considered as one of the most important discoveries of veterinary surgery, and too seldom applied to the brood mare.

I beg here to remark, that I would not advise the selection of a mare requiring the operation at all, but only recommend its being done, when the brood mare happens to be afflicted with any lameness the pain of which the operation could alleviate.

The time of each mare's service should be accurately noted down in a book, which ought to be

kept by the owner, and a copy given to the person in charge of the mare. At the expiration of the eleven months, the mare ought to be removed to a safely enclosed field, as not a day can be depended upon after this period; she may go six, or even twenty days beyond the eleven months, (old mares have gone twelve months,) but by not removing the mare to a place of safety, a dead foal lying in some ditch, may be all the satisfaction the breeder may have for his year's patience and trouble.

In bad weather the mare may be put into some roomy stable, and carefully watched; a day or two before foaling, the belly diminishes in size, the udder extends, and a drop of glutinous matter will be observed at the teats. It is true, that the mare generally produces with apparent more ease and safety than most animals, yet a valuable mare and foal deserve particular attention and the services of the veterinary surgeon should always be secured. When a mare is considered to have too much flesh, she may prudently be put on rather bare pasture, and get neither oats nor roots for a month before her foaling time expires.

After foaling, the mare should be supplied with warm water, and bran mash, for two or three days, at the end of which time, should the weather be fine, and both her and the foal well, they may be returned to the grazing ground, and there receive a regular allowance of oats or bran until the grass is amply sufficient for their support. In the event of cold, stormy, wet weather, they ought to be kept in

the house, and only allowed out for a short time each day until the weather becomes genial. It is a distressing sight to see a mare, with a young tender foal, standing shivering with cold at the side of a fence, depend upon it that it is false economy to allow it.

Should a mare prove to be a bad nurse (as some are from constitutional causes,) and not to supply sufficient milk, the deficiency must be made up by milk from the cow, which, with a very little trouble at first, the foal will freely drink and thrive on. Should the foal at all be griped with the change of milk, which sometimes happens at first, the following simple recipe will generally cure the same: two tea-spoonsful of powdered rhubarb, and the same quantity of magnesia, in a pint of thin, warm gruel. Should the foal be griped from cold or wet weather, a table-spoonful of brandy, and a tea-spoonful of laudanum in a pint of gruel may be given. I do not wish to interfere with the business of the veterinary surgeon, and only give these two simple recipes which may be given with safety, when the case does not require further treatment, so I hope these gentlemen will excuse me. I can assure them, that I entertain the opinion of the necessity of calling them in every case of sickness.

When a mare cannot, or will not rear her foal, it can easily be done by milk from the cow alone, many first rate race horses have been so reared.

The mare that is required to work, when rearing her foal, should always, if at all possible, be allowed

to go at large with her foal, say for four weeks after foaling, when she may return to her usual work, and the foal may be allowed to follow her ; but if this is inconvenient, the foal may be kept separate, getting access to the mother at least three times during the day, and always left with her at night. Attention must be paid never to allow the milk to distress the mother, it will be better to remove a little of the same rather than to allow it to do so ; and should by any chance the mare be much heated, (which should not be allowed if possible,) she ought to be milked before the foal is allowed to suck her.

The mare and foal at large will, in general, give little trouble during the summer months ; good grass, shelter, water, and plenty of scope is all they will require. The mare will be ready to receive the horse in six or nine days after foaling ; but, it is perhaps, better not to allow this to take place sooner than four or six weeks after, to allow the womb sufficiently to contract.

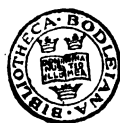
Nothing more need be said about the mare, and I shall now pass on to the foal. The docking is the first experience he should receive of the cruelty of man, this is generally done in this country ; and taking it for granted that it must be executed, I think beyond all question, the proper time to do so is when the foal is about two or three months old. At this early age there is hardly any danger, and so little does the foal seem to feel the operation, that if quickly done, he will scarcely leave off feeding for a moment. The plan is very simple, and may be per-

formed thus : grasp as much of the tail as fancy may wish removed, in the one hand, and with a sharp knife in the other, sever it through in a moment. Nothing more is required, it will bleed very little, and heal up at once.

Foals intended for the use of the army should be left with twelve inches of rump, or not docked at all.

CHAP. X.

Weaning the Foal.



THE proper time to wean the foal is about the age of six months, so about the first of November all should be weaned. This is best done by removing them to a distance from their dams, to some dry grazing ground, there to be kept by themselves during the winter months ; comfortable sheds should be provided, so that the foals may go into them at pleasure. The dams may also return to their winter quarters, and be treated as before directed.

The foals should now have a liberal supply of hay, carrots, boiled or steamed turnips, at least every night, and were a small quantity of oats allowed so much the better. To give the foal every justice, the following quantity of oats and roots will be sufficient for its perfect growth :—say two pounds of oats in the morning, the same quantity in the middle of the day, and three quarters full of a stable bucket of sliced carrots, or a full bucket of steamed turnips

every night—the turnips should be bruised, and a table-spoonful of salt mixed into each feed. The sheds should be well littered, and regularly cleaned out at least twice each week.

The first winter's keeping will go far in stamping the character of the colt; if well and comfortably kept, he will gain in appearance, strength, and spirits to an amazing degree, and will, with very little extra feeding, in future years far outstrip another with double the feeding, which has been neglected the first winter. As it is generally the case that a well wintered colt will, at the age of twelve months, very nearly show the paces (in his gambols,) and shapes which he will excel in when he arrives at perfection in his fifth or sixth year, it becomes of the greatest importance that every care should be bestowed on him during that period.

The person in charge of young stock ought to be a great deal among them, and use every effort, with kindness, to render them as tame and tractable as possible. At the same time no great familiarity is to be allowed, as the young pets are very apt to learn tricks both with their feet and mouths, which is not at all pleasant.

Head collars may be put on each foal at the time of weaning, to be kept on during the winter months; some breeders allow them to remain always, and some attach a rope of a considerable length to the collar, so that the colt may be caught at pleasure. I doubt the safety of the rope.

Yearlings should never be allowed to go with the

mares and foals, as many of them will attempt and succeed in sucking the mares.

The yearling colts and fillies may graze together during the summer, and may be again wintered together as when foals, and will not require much if any extra feeding ; but in the spring following, as they will then be rising two years old, they must graze separately, and be wintered separately. They will now require three pounds of oats twice a-day, and roots as before.

In the following spring they will be approaching the age of three years, which is the earliest period that any serious breaking or training should ever be attempted. The person in charge of the young stock should handle each of them every day, caressing them about the head, and handling their legs and feet, so that they may allow a bridle to be put on, and allow themselves to be shod whenever required. If proper and constant attention has been paid to the colts from the time they were weaned, they will give the breaker little trouble. Before passing a few general remarks on training, a word may be said on the most serious operation the colt has to undergo, viz., castration. This operation so successfully practised, may be performed at almost any age or season ; yet, the best season is September or October, when the colt is two years old. Circumstances may excuse its not being done before the age of three.

I shall not enter either into the particulars of the operation, or the after treatment, as this should invariably be left to the regularly educated practitioner.

After the colt has completed his third year, he may with all safety be transferred over to the charge of the regular horse breaker for future instruction. As there are many good breakers in this county, I shall not presume to enter into the details of the system; but, I may here say, that some caution is necessary in the selection of a breaker, some of whom I have observed to sit so far back on their horse, that it would seem as if they were more accustomed to ride donkeys than horses—such men can never give a horse a good mouth. The owner of every colt should insist on the breaker giving the colt his lesson regularly twice every day, to give him a pleasant mouth, and teach him every pace distinctly; and never on any account to allow any half and half pace between a walk and a trot, or a trot and a canter.

In breaking the draft colt he should be taught to back steadily. After the colt has received his necessary instructions from the breaker, he may in future be treated as a horse should be, as to feeding, grooming, and working; but his work should be light, regular, and pleasant, until he has fully completed his fourth year.

It is a great pity that farmers in general destroy their young stock by too early severe work, by which many promising colts are ruined in constitution, legs, and eyes.

It is quite common in this county to see a two year old colt doing the regular labour of the farm; and by far too common to see heavy burdens put on

their tender backs, which often consists of the owner on the saddle, and his wife sitting behind him. This is ruination to the colt's hind quarters, and to his action during life, as he invariably gets into a dragging way of going with his hind legs, which time will almost never remove. I feel inclined to hope that "Martin's Act" will soon be so enlarged and extended, that it will prevent under a heavy penalty, any double live weight being put on the back of any horse under six years of age. If this truly barbarous custom was abandoned, we would see fewer horses suffering from weakness in the loins, or with spavins or ring bones.

I have already said that I would not enter into the minutiae of breaking or training the colt; I shall, however, make a few observations on training the horse as a trotter. This is a pace much prized, being by far the best a roadster can possess, and when a first rater, no horse commands a more ready sale at almost any price. All persons who either ride or drive much, are anxious to have trotters, yet few have them in any perfection. The trot is a pace which cannot be taught, it may however, be much improved by training and system; yet, the training of the trotters is very little understood, and much neglected in this county.

CHAP. XI.

Training the Trotter.

At the age of four years the colt will begin to show whether nature has gifted him with the seed of this pace or not ; should he be able to trot in handsome style, with the knee sufficiently bent, and quarters correctly spread, say one English mile in four minutes, he may be expected to become a fast trotter. When he can perform the said distance in three minutes and a quarter, he may be brought to go at least sixteen miles within the hour with ease. Should he be able to go the mile in three minutes, he will rank as one of the speediest of trotters, and if well treated until six years old, will command a high price in any country.

The colt selected to be trained as a trotter may be regularly used as a roadster in a gentle way during his fourth year ; but great caution is to be observed, that on no account should he ever be allowed to go at any pace besides the walk, and the trot. He should be taught to bear steadily and evenly in the hand, and should be ridden in a light, gentle, double bridle. He must never be allowed to get into a pace between the gallop and the trot (called running,) and as often as he breaks in his trot, he must be pulled up and turned round ; he must not at any time be pressed to anything near his full speed. The educa-

tion he receives this year, will go far to stamp his character as a trotter ; he should be carefully ridden, and instructed to walk and trot with neatness and precision, rather than with speed.

When not required to go out on ordinary business, he should get regular exercise, say one mile steady trotting, and two miles walking in the morning, and two or three miles walking in the evening. It is to be taken for granted that he is now on a fair allowance of oats, so he must not be left idle a single day ; he ought also to have, once a-week, a supper of boiled barley with a handful of salt in it, or he may with great advantage get every night a few sliced carrots ; this treatment may be pursued until he has completed his fourth year. When five years old he may with greater freedom be used on the road, but still very tenderly ; he may now get daily say two miles trotting at a good pace (but much within his speed,) in the morning, and three or four miles walking in the evening.

I have here condensed, as much as possible, the system of correctly treating and training the horse as a trotter during his fourth and fifth year, which cannot be properly done in less time than two years so that soundness may be maintained, and the highest rate in speed and endurance attained. No horse can stand, without injury to his legs and feet, the severe racking of this pace before he is fully six years old.

When the horse is intended for harness, his trotting exercise should be in harness once every day, but his walking exercise may be in the saddle, and

on every occasion on dry, soft, even ground. The horse having gone on satisfactorily improving for the last two years, and being in blooming hard condition brought on steadily with exercise, grooming, and good feeding, may now safely be prepared for having his abilities tested either as to speed or endurance, for which trial he will require four weeks extra work which may be given as follows : In the morning he should be trotted four miles ; three at a good brisk pace, and the last at nearer his full pace than ever before (but still within it,) and finishing on every occasion in a walk ; in the evening he must have at least five miles walking.

This will be sufficient exercise to prepare a horse for any humane undertaking, and the trainer may rest assured that no longer or severer training will be of service to any horse, which is in proper condition at the commencement of the work. There are many first rate trainers of race horses, but there are few (at least in this country,) who train horses for trotting ; however, the system is simple and easy, so much so that any one who can ride well on the road, or keeps a good groom, may train his own horses to trot to the highest pitch, and will invariably be rewarded by a high price for any good trotter he may wish to dispose of. The reason we find so few good trotters in this country, is chiefly because when a colt shows any extra pace at this work, he is battered to pieces, in legs and feet, before he arrives at an age sufficient to stand the work.

The greatest performers are now brought from

America, where trotting is all the rage. I see, however, nothing to prevent the farmers of this county from having equally as fast trotters as the Americans, provided due attention is paid to breeding and training.

Before concluding my observations on training, I may, for the benefit of those who may not feel inclined to read all I have written, draw up a short table as to the age the different breeds may be trained at, and the work they may be commenced with :

Draft stock may be trained at three years old, and gently wrought in ploughing, &c.

Carriage stock may be trained at three years old, and gently wrought in ploughing, &c.

The above ought never to be put to cart or carriage work sooner than four years old.

Hunting stock may be trained at four years old for the saddle, but must only get exercise, and never be hunted before five years of age, and even then only very gently.

Saddle stock may all be trained at three years and six months old, but should only have exercise as the hunter until four years old.

Colts intended for the army need only be rendered tractable, and exposed for sale in the collar at the age of three years.

Ponies may be broken and sold singly, or in droves at three or four years old.

I shall now give one more table of details, viz., the probable expense to a farmer rearing a foal from

the date of its being weaned, until fit for sale, say for the army, at the age of three years without any expense in breaking.

I shall assume the foal is weaned at first of November, and now stands his breeder for sire and grazing, at six months old, say two pounds.

Six months wintering allowing four lbs. of oats daily, in all say 180 days, which will be 51 st. 6 lb., at 6d. per stone, £1 5 8	
One stone of carrots every night, at 1d. per stone, . 0 15 0	
One half stone of hay every night, in all 90 stone, at 10d. per cwt. . . . 0 9 4	
	<hr/> 2 10 0
Grazing the yearling from 1st May to 1st November, . £1 10 0	
Winter keeping 6 lbs. of oats per day, in all 77 stone, at 6d., £1 18s. 6d.; Turnips, 15s.; hay, 10s., in all, . 2 13 6	
	<hr/> 4 3 6
Grazing the two year old from 1st May to 1st November, £2 0 0	
Winter keeping, 7 lbs. of oats per day, in all 90 stone, at 6d., £2 5s.; roots and hay, £1 10s., in all . . . 3 15 0	
	<hr/> 5 15 0
Grazing the three year old from 1st May until fit for sale, say in July or August, £1; extra expenses, 10s. . £1 10 0—1 10 0	
	<hr/>
Total expenses, . £15 18 6	

This amount of nearly sixteen pounds will completely cover every expense to the farmer in rearing the colt until fully three years old.

There are, no doubt, many items which might have been enumerated, such as expenses of the necessary operations and attendance ; yet, to the farmer (who feeds his colt in the shed during the winter,) the value of the manure will go far to cover these, and will also make up for the low prices charged for oats, &c. Nor will it be necessary to notice the depreciation of the mare for having had a foal, or account for the loss of time in working, before or after foaling, as this is intended only as a rough guide to direct the breeder as to the expense the colt may be reared at, until a certain age, when he may either be sold, or commenced to work for his own maintenance.

There has been charged against the colt the sum of £5 9s. 2d. for oats which many persons may consider superfluous ; but allow me once more to assure those persons that the oats will not be thrown away on the young colt, as his price in the market, or his fitness for work will testify.

The colt having been treated as directed, may be expected to realize the full army price which is thirty or thirty-five pounds for black or grey colts ; or twenty-five pounds for any other colour, or say twenty-four pounds, which would leave a fair profit, on an outlay of sixteen pounds.

Should the colt be thoroughly trained, and kept until four years old, he may at an additional cost of

about ten pounds, bring a much larger sum than the above named.

In concluding my remarks and advice to the farmers of this county, on the breeding of horses, I have to assure them, my sole object has been to endeavour to assist them in rearing a class of stock, which if correctly gone about, will prove highly remunerative ; but most assuredly the breeding of no class of stock will cause more disappointment and loss, if carelessly or ignorantly conducted. The horse is not only our most useful servant, but is the grandest specimen of the brute creation, and deserves our constant study, care, and attention.

The foregoing remarks are neither crude, nor hasty in conclusion, and although they might have been more full in many parts, such as in the breaking and training of the useful classes treated of ; yet, it is to be hoped, they are generally plain and explicit enough, on a subject which has for a long period engaged my own particular fancy, and which I can in truth say, seldom unprofitably.

TO THE LANDLORDS.

THE foregoing remarks having been written for the direction and assistance of the farmers, I take the liberty of making a few observations to you who have so much at stake in the prosperity of the county. Should you coincide generally with what has been said, it is to be hoped, that your co-operation with your tenantry will not be wanting. The prosperity of your tenants must be your prosperity too, and as you are in the position to supply what it is impossible for the tenantry, at first commencing an improved system of breeding, to procure for themselves, viz., good sires, I beg your attention to the subject.

Sires there are in abundance, I have them nearly all as to appearance and defects in my memory, and with only two or three exceptions, a worse lot never polluted a country. I feel inclined to particularize some of them, but bearing in mind that the owners might, with the assistance of certain bipeds who

periodically visit the county, construe my remarks into defamation, I shall not individualize their faults, but shall merely say, that as a whole, they are unworthy of being kept as sires.

The introduction of superior sires would leave the tenantry no excuse for breeding from those they are now forced to use; and although it would cost a considerable outlay, yet, putting aside the pleasure it would afford to gentlemen fond of horses to see a superior description raised by their efforts, it would repay them in the end.

There is ample room for the service of ten good horses; say five thorough bred, strong, compact, and short legged, for the use of the really good mares, and five of a stronger description.

There are already too many weedy, useless, blood stock, and although I do not approve of too much crossing, strength is very much required at present. The introduction of five grand knee actioned, compact, middle sized, carriage, or trotting sires, would be of great advantage to cross with the general run of mares. From these, horses for the saddle, army, harness and hunting might be expected as the blood of the mares suited. The following towns and neighbourhood stand much in need of superior sires, Tralee, Killarney, Caherciveen, Killorglin, Dingle, Listowel, and Tarbert.* If horses of the right

* Tarbert is perhaps, better supplied with blood sires than any other locality mentioned, through the exertions of William Sandes, Esq.

stamp were sent and kept in these towns say for four years, bone and strength would be imparted to the rising stock. At the end of four years these horses might be with advantage exchanged, so as to serve in other districts.

The carriage sire is the most powerful one to be recommended for commencing any improvement with the present breed of mares. A first rate thorough bred horse would certainly cost at least one hundred pounds, and might easily be procured in Dublin. The carriage horse would cost nearly the same sum, and would be got in the greatest perfection in the county of Durham, where most splendid carriage horses are bred.

The above sum may seem a large one for a landlord to give for a sire for the use of his tenantry, however, it is not extravagant, when we consider what large sums are annually given for bulls, and that the landlord would be no loser is easily proved. The sire can with safety serve eighty mares each season, until at least twelve years of age, and thirty shillings would be a fair price for each, this sum to be charged the tenants only on having a live foal, and many persons, not tenants, might be anxious to procure the services of a good sire who would willingly pay two pounds for the same.

The profit and expenses will stand thus :—

Sixty mares at 30s. each,			
belonging to Tenants,	£90	0	0
Twenty mares at 40s.			
each, belonging to the			
public,	40	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£130	0	0
Deduct in case of not			
proving in foal, 10			
mares at 30s. each, .	15	0	0
	<hr/>		
		115	0 0
Expense of keeping the			
horse for 12 months at			
16s. per week, . . .	£41	12	0
Expense of shoeing, me-			
dicine, &c., for twelve			
months, say in all, .	3	8	0
Expense of wages of			
groom for 12 months,			
say in all,	30	0	0
	<hr/>		
		75	0 0
	<hr/>		

Leaving the sum of £40 0 0

to be put aside annually against the original cost, and depreciation of the value of the horse. It will not be necessary to take into account any additional expense, as the sums allowed will cover any small extra outlay during the year, assuming that the horse and groom are to remain in one place, and not incur travelling expenses. I have purposely

omitted the fee generally charged by the groom ; the custom is a bad one, and has been the ruin of many good servants. It is generally paid in the whiskey shop and spent in drink. The owners of sires ought never to allow their servants to receive one six-pence for their trouble, and should give them to understand the accepting of bribe or fee will end their services.

The keeper of a valuable horse should be a superior person, and ought to be paid a fair wage to enable him to keep himself respectable. He should be a person thoroughly acquainted with horses, and ought to refuse the horse to any blind or otherwise hereditary defective mare. The groom may be employed during the winter months inspecting the young stock of the tenantry, in giving his advice how each should be treated, and reporting to his employer their various success.

If premiums were annually offered to the tenants, say five pounds for the best foal, to be shown with the dam, from any one sire, it would be a great stimulus to them to rear their foals well, and it would be an excellent opportunity for breeders in general to see the stock each sire would produce. The same sum might be given for yearlings, two year olds, and three year olds. The sum of twenty pounds would cover these premiums for one particular sire over the county, which might be taken from the profits of the horse, and still leave twenty pounds yearly ; and supposing the horse should only succeed for six years there would be then one hundred and twenty to his credit, against his original

cost, after paying every expense, besides rendering most important permanent improvements to the breed of horses in the county; which would not be to the advantage of one individual alone, but to many, both landlords and tenants.

With the present stock of mares I can scarcely advise the introduction of many heavy draft sires; but if any gentleman would import some superior Clydesdale mares and a sire, he certainly would profit by the speculation. The sire might with advantage to himself perform any work on the farm for six months every year, which would much reduce the expense of his keeping.

I mentioned at the commencement of these remarks, that the hills of this county are admirably suited for the rearing of the pony; a good many are bred there, but they are of an inferior description.

At the August fair in Killorglin a great many are shown, but there are few nice ones among them. The dams and sires are often in company with the young stock at the fair, and after examining them carefully no one can be surprised at finding so few handsome ponies. There is one black pony brood mare belonging to Mr. John Brian, of the Toomies, which is worth any money as a brood pony, and if put to a nice sire she might produce foals more resembling the Welsh than any existing in this locality. This pony is well worthy of inspection.

Many of the hills which are now nearly destitute of stock (or are only supporting goats,) might be profitably turned to the rearing of this class. It is

said that some of the hills are at all times rather precarious for rearing cattle, as even the native breeds are attacked with sudden and fatal sickness. No domestic animal is so free from disease as the horse when going at large, therefore, there is little danger of disease among ponies; all they require is a free range of pasturage, and a little attention during winter. Any hills not perfectly suited or safe for the introduction of a superior breed of black cattle, might be rendered valuable by rearing ponies, and they would support the same number of the latter.

Select brood ponies could be as cheaply purchased as cattle, and would be found annually more remunerative, they are as easily managed as cattle or sheep, and require less attendance. A lot of fifty mares, with their foals, may be properly superintended by one man.

At November the foals should all be weaned, the mares brought home to their winter quarters, which should be an enclosed part of the hill, on which should stand a dwelling for the master care-taker, some stabling, and sheds for supplying hay to the mares when necessary. The foals ought to be removed from the pasturage they were on with their dams during summer (which may be called the breeding range,) to the most extensive available range, which may be called the general range, and placed under the charge of another person, and they will also require some sheds to receive hay during severe weather.

Nothing should be allowed to trespass on the

breeding range during winter. In spring, as each mare has foaled, she may be returned to the breeding ground (where from its being saved since November good grass may be expected,) and remain there until their foals are reared as before, when they may again return to the winter quarters, and the foals joined to the yearlings. The yearlings may be operated on, so all may graze in safety together until fit for sale at the age of three years. When the number of colts exceeds one hundred, another care-taker will be necessary, and so on in proportion.

Ponies may be broken and sold separately, or they may be sold unbroken in droves. Any number of them may be sold annually in England, at from five to seven pounds each, and some might double these prices.

The sire most suited for getting handsome ponies is either a small Arabian, or a Barb. He ought to be kept always comfortably in the stable adjoining the care-taker's house, and never allowed to roam at large with the mares, but each of them should be brought to him as required.

The men in charge of the stock will have plenty of time to cut and save all the hay required. The best of the lowlands may be fenced, drained, and reserved for hay; and a few acres may be tilled with the aid of some of the brood mares for oats, turnips, carrots, &c.

There is one other animal which would be a great benefit to the hill tenantry, viz., the Spanish or

Maltese ass. Mules are always in demand for the West Indies; and those bred from the mares of this country invariably command a higher price than foreign mules, so here again the assistance of the landlord is required.

CONCLUSION.

I AM aware, that should any of my readers coincide with the foregoing remarks, many more will still assert that breeding horses will never pay; and some may express themselves thankful that they have no taste or desire to breed so unprofitable a stock. I would ask all who say so, whether they ever gave it a fair trial, and how it comes to pass that so many horses are bred in England, and elsewhere, if it will not pay?

If there are many parts in the British empire in which the breeding of horses proves a remunerative speculation, why should it not equally succeed in Ireland, and particularly in this county? The climate cannot be surpassed for the purpose; grazing can be had at fully one-half the rent the same would cost in England or Scotland; hay is seldom above the third of the price, and oats can be purchased at little above one-half of the price in the sister countries. The demand for horses of the right stamp is continuous, and increasing, and all that is required is a thorough change of the brutes called sires—a careful selection of mares—kind, considerate atten-

tion in rearing the young stock—an abandonment of the destructive practice of too early working the same—more oats given, and less of badly saved hay—a more humane method of using the horse after, or during a journey, by stabling him comfortably rather than tying him for hours to a door, in the cold and wet, (by which a shilling may be saved at the risk of many a pound sterling.) Should these simple details be attended to, then, but not till then, will the bane of horse flesh in the south of Ireland, namely, blindness and broken wind disappear, and at least to its present extent, become known only in history.

I intended to have concluded my observations with the word history, and to have thanked all those who have had the patience to follow me in my wanderings; but having had some conversation with a friend, who seems to think, that if I am correct in asserting that horses may be more cheaply bred in this county than elsewhere—that they also may be maintained in the same ratio—and a short table as to the expense they ought to cost, would be of service to many who keep, but do not breed horses. I shall, therefore, with pleasure, comply with this request, being satisfied that a well appointed carriage and pair can be kept in this county at a less yearly expenditure than a horse and gig in either England or Scotland.

In detailing the expenses of keeping a pair of first class carriage horses in England there can be no mistake, as I have before me the best work I have

ever met with on the subject of keeping horses, in every particular, written by a practical gentleman, and a thorough sportsman, signing himself "Harry Hieover," and styled "The Pocket and the Stud," a book which every one who keeps a horse should possess; by the "Stud" is not meant a racing stud, but horses of every description, from the cart horse up to the hunter.

I shall copy from this work the expenses of keeping a pair of London carriage horses, which stand over sixteen hands high, consequently they are allowed the maximum quantity of oats and hay, that any two horses kept for private use can possibly consume.

EXPENSES for twelve months for keeping two carriage horses in England:—

Two Horses, 6 quarters of oats per day each,

at 24s. per quarter, .. ..	..	£41	0	0
14 lbs. of hay per day each, at 90s. per ton, ..	20	10	0	
1 cwt. of straw per week, at 30s. per ton, ..	3	18	0	
Shoeing both, 10s. per month of 28 days, ..	6	10	0	
Wear and tear of chamols, sponges, brushes, at				
6d. per week,	1	6	0	
Wear and tear of clothing, and head collars, at				
6d. per week each,	2	12	0	
		£75	10	0

The above table does not include any thing for rent of stable, medicine, servants' wages, taxes on carriage, horses, or servants (which are very high,) but only the provender and other small items, I shall therefore, confine myself to the same quantities and items, substituting only Kerry prices.

EXPENSES for twelve months for keeping two carriage horses in Kerry :—

Two Horses, Six quarters equal to 15 lbs. of

oats per day each, at 8d. per stone,	..	£26	1	4
14 lbs. of hay per day each, at 25s. per ton,	..	5	13	0
1 cwt. of straw per week, at 15s. per ton,	..	1	19	0
Shoeing both. 6s. per month of 28 days,	..	3	18	0
Wear and tear on small items as charged in other table, in all, .. ..	..	3	18	0
<hr/>				
£41 9 4				

The above table of allowances is for a class of horses seldom kept in this county, the following may be of service to any one keeping a horse from fourteen and a-half to fifteen and a-half hands high.

EXPENSES of keeping a horse not exceeding fifteen and a-half hands for twelve months :—

One Horse, 10 lbs. of oats per day, in all 260 st.

10 lbs., at 8d. per stone,	..	..	£8	14	0
14 lb. of hay per day amounting to a little over					
2½ tons, at 25s. per ton,	..	..	2	16	6
½ cwt. of straw per week, at 15s. per ton,	..	..	0	19	6
Shoeing 12 sets at 3s. per set,	..	..	1	16	0
			<hr/>		
			£14	16	0

The allowance in this table is sufficient for any horse in regular private work, and he will on receiving it, and proper attention, appear in blooming condition, and will be able to work every day throughout the year.

Some persons may wish to have a guide for feeding galloways, or ladies' horses, from thirteen to

fourteen hands : I shall finish the table with this, which may appear a poor compliment to the ladies' horse to speak of him last.

EXPENSES of keeping a palfrey not exceeding fourteen hands for twelve months :—

One galloway, 6 lbs. of oats per day, in all 156½			
stone, at 8d. per stone,	£5	4	4
10 lbs. of hay per day, in all 1½ tons, at 25s. per			
ton,	2	3	9
½ cwt. of straw per week, at 15s. per ton, ..	0	19	6
Shoeing, 12 sets, at 2s. 6d. per set, ..	1	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£9	17	7

It may be assumed that horses of this class are not used every day, but should they get the above allowances regularly, and exercise when not required otherwise, they will keep in excellent condition.

By the above tables any one may calculate the quantity of oats and hay which his stud will require, and need not trust to the honesty of either friend or servant. It is an excellent plan where practicable to purchase hay in September or October, and stack it carefully. In these months it is generally to be got from eighteen to twenty-two shillings per ton, and a correct judgment may be formed of the quality of it in the ricks, when in the field where it has been saved—sound, well saved upland hay, is the only kind suited for horses. Hay is much improved by keeping until twelve months old, after which age it rather deteriorates ; two tons and a-half may be secured for each horse, this quantity will allow for

soakage : good sweet hay is nourishing and grateful, but bad hay is the worst food possible. The most careful stable management, grooming, and feeding, will not cause a horse to be healthy, or appear in condition when bad hay is used ; it would be better to put wood shavings before a horse rather than musty or heated hay—he will only reject the one, but will eat the other to the irretrievable ruin of his constitution.

Before leaving this subject I would say one word to the groom : that there are two things that I would never pass a second time without dismissing him. First : any act of cruelty to the horse, or any ebullition of temper with young stock. Second : his giving so much as one pound of hay to a horse over and above the quantity allowed by his employer. I do not wish to stint the horse of a fair quantity of hay, nor do I put so much value on the same, but I wish to record that which I have learned from sad experience, that more horses are permanently injured in their wind, by servants' cramming the racks with hay, than with any other mismanagement.

Oats are also much improved by keeping until twelve months old, and a great saving can be effected by purchasing after harvest, say three hundred stone for each horse ; this quantity will allow for soakage, and also afford an extra feed for a friend's horse. Oats stored in a dry loft, and turned occasionally, will keep for any length of time. Horses should never get oats which have been kiln dried with sulphur ; it acts severely on the kidneys.

With a few observations on stable management, I shall conclude my remarks. The groom ought to be every morning in the stable by six o'clock, and should commence by watering his horses, and putting into the rack two or three pounds of hay ; after the stable is thoroughly cleaned out, and the horses carefully dressed over, and every thing put to rights, the fourth part of the daily allowance (if fed four times, and a third if only fed three times a-day,) of oats is to be given each horse. The groom may now look after his harness, or other work, and allow the horses to enjoy themselves ; after the oats and hay are finished, it is a good plan to fasten the horses with the rack chain. In the middle of the day, or at the most convenient hour, the same quantity of oats may be given, over which should be thrown say one quart of water ; after feeding, the horse may be again racked up, so as to be ready, and fit to go to work at any hour. In the afternoon, say at four o'clock, another feed of oats may be given, or two or three pounds of hay. In the evening, about seven or eight o'clock, after being thoroughly dressed, the horse may get water without stint—his oats again—and say eight pounds of hay ; and as it is to be understood, that he has a good dry bed under him, he may rest in comfort until next morning.

Great attention ought to be paid to the feet of all horses kept in the stable, to keep them cool and moist by stoppings. Many grooms use cow-dung and clay for this purpose, but these mixtures are dirty, and disagreeable to handle. The best kind of

stopping is either a pad of felt (which is made for the purpose,) or a pledge of common tow ; these should be soaked in water, and put into the fore feet every evening. The pads by merely inserting the edges under the shoe, will remain until morning without any other fixing ; but the tow must be secured by a thin slip of wood laid across the foot, and also inserted under the shoe at each side.

Some grooms polish the outside of the hoof with oil and other ingredients, but this is neither useful nor ornamental.

When horses are not required to go out on Sunday, it is an excellent plan to omit the evening feed of oats on Saturday night, and substitute the same weight of barley, which should be well boiled, and a handful of salt mixed in it. This will save many a physic ball, if attended to throughout the year.

APPENDIX.

Purchasing of Horses.

To purchase horses profitably is by no means so simple an affair as is generally supposed, so a very few hints on the subject may not be out of place.

Of all trades in existence there are none in which greater duplicity is practised by wholesale and retail, than in horse dealing. Let a man be upright in every other transaction in life, he seems to think that there is a tacit license to trick in this trade. Many moving in the better circles—some of them wearing coats of a particular colour—are more awake to, and put in practice, schemes and dodges in selling horses, which a respectable dealer would not venture to resort to. It is more satisfactory to purchase from, or sell to, a regular dealer, than to treat with a private individual.

When a person is in want of a horse, who is not a first rate judge himself, his safest plan is to fix on

some friend, who is allowed to be a judge, and tell him particularly for what purpose the horse is required, and leave all the rest to him ; should he make up his mind to have a horse in value of about thirty pounds, he may tell his friend on no account to exceed thirty-five pounds, and at once hand him the amount. By acting in this way, the friend (if he is a conscientious man,) will take far more care in the selection, than he might do were he purchasing for himself ; should, by chance, the horse not turn out exactly what was expected, he may be resold at little if any loss ; but, should he turn out very badly, there is still this consolation, that the same has happened to many of the best judges, and will do so again to the end of time.

In looking out for a horse for either saddle or harness, one of the most important things in the first instance, is to satisfy oneself that the horse under observation is in strength and size, suited for the intended work—and that his action corresponds—any one, by attending to this simple matter, will in a fair, very soon see, with little trouble, whether there are any horses there at all likely to suit him.

It is a very common practice for persons to walk about a fair (with a hunting or riding whip in hand, and, perhaps, a fox's tooth stuck in their kerchief or hat,) and hail the riders of some dozens of horses calling out in a stentorian voice : " What do you ask for that horse ?" and then only award the rider or seller, for the trouble he has been put to, by bombastically telling him that he wont do, he is too

small, or that he has this or that fault. The truth is, that the price asked is often the sole cause for the rejection of the horse, by the would be thought intending purchaser. Many practice this humbugging foolery, when they have not five pounds in their pockets, and annoy the sellers of twenty pound or thirty pound horses with multitudinous questions.

When a horse has been thoroughly inspected, and the intending purchaser satisfied with his shapes and appearance ; tested his action and temper, by riding or driving him ; the price agreed on ; he should ask for a written warrantcy, or procure the aid of the veterinary surgeon, as to age and soundness ; on these points, and on these only, will a good judge be guided by the surgeon.

A person may be a first rate veterinary surgeon, yet may not possess the taste to select a gentlemanly style of horse ; nor is he always to be expected to be the best adviser as to the value of a horse in the market. He may not have the opportunity of regularly attending the fairs, or have any inclination to interfere or advise in buying or selling.

When a professional man has a superior taste in horses, and makes it his business to study the selling value of horses, then he may be of all men the best fitted to purchase horses for others ; but his college studies do not imperatively fit him for this department, as many seem to suppose.

There are many veterinary surgeons that would not for fee or reward practice in this way ; and in my humble opinion, the less they do so (as a body,)

for their own peace of mind, character, and pocket, the better.

A warrantcy may be shortly written thus :—

Bought of for the sum of
pounds sterling, a gelding, or a mare,
warranted only years old ; sound, and free from
vice in every respect, and quiet to ride or drive.

Dated this day, the 18

C. C. Witness. Signed, A. B.

There are a few leading points which one selecting a horse may easily bear in memory. Strength (as before mentioned,) for the intended purpose—a good mouth, yielding implicitly to the bit—carrying the head and tail well—shoulders and forehead sufficiently high to keep the saddle in its proper place, to prevent the necessity of using that ungentlemanly looking appendage, a crupper—bending the knee properly so as to be safe and pleasant on the road, in walking or trotting—free from cutting or **brushing** the one leg with the other, before or behind—elasticity in limbs and action, unimpaired by work—clean, flat legs—sound, well formed feet—spirits in profusion, without heat or impetuosity of temper, and youth for improvement or endurance.

The limits of this work will not allow of entering minutely into all the details of the ills attending horse flesh, so I shall enumerate only a few which come under the head of decided unsoundness. All affections of the breathing, such as broken wind—thick wind—high blowing—grunting—roaring—whistling—piping—chronic cough—a simple cough

must be accounted unsoundness during its continuance, and should be provided for by special warranty—lameness from any cause—crib biting—corns—curbs—ringbone—sand crack—false quarter—quittor—spavins—thrush—and every affection of the eye.

Many other defects may or may not be held as unsoundness, such as contraction—splints—thorough pin—wind galls, &c. The veterinary surgeon must be the guide in these cases. A horse with stringhalt is not unsound, it being only a nervous irregularity, which does not interfere with the meaning of the term soundness which is understood to imply freedom from disease, or alteration of any part, which does or is likely to interfere with the general usefulness of the animal.

B

57



